



## **HANDOUT #5: FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT**

### **Offender Motivation:**

Expression of hostility and aggression  
Exertion of power and control  
Expression of mastery  
Expression of authority  
Desire to demonstrate capability  
Desire to degrade or humiliate  
Desire to belong to a group that encourages sexual offenses  
Sexually deviant arousal patterns  
Desire to satisfy self, regardless of impact  
Alternative sources of sexual gratification are not available  
Satisfaction of emotional needs

### **Offender Overcomes His/Her Own Inhibitions Against Sexual Assault**

Lack of insight regarding ramifications of behavior  
Lack of empathy  
Belief that behavior is the norm  
Belief that behavior is acceptable  
Rationalization  
Alcohol  
Drug use  
Acceptance of sexual assault myths  
Mental illness  
Intellectual impairment

### **Offender Overcomes External Inhibitions Against Assault**

Prosecution of offenders unlikely  
Minimal sentences for convicted offenders  
Societal acceptance of violence; acceptance of violence as a legitimate tool of authority  
Media portrayal of sexual violence as common  
Media portrayal of women enjoying being sexually overpowered  
Gender role stereotypes and expectations  
Views of women as sexual objects  
Environmental opportunities (poorly lit areas, victims isolated)  
Societal acceptance of sexual assault myths  
Minimal efforts to prevent sexual assaults or deter offenders

### **Offender Overcomes Victim's Inhibitions Against Assault**

Physical force  
Alcohol  
Date rape drugs  
Intimidation  
Targeting vulnerable of victims  
Coercion